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FORMER LOCAL NEWS PERSONALITY INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES

Indictment a result of undercover internet sex operation

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . A federal grand jury in Shreveport has returned an indictment charging **MICHAEL SIEVE**, age 38, of Shreveport, with three counts of using the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today.

The indictment alleges that on June 16, 2006, SIEVE, a former news personality at a Shreveport radio station, contacted an undercover police officer, who was posing as a 14-year old girl, on the Internet in a chatroom via instant messaging and began chatting with her. According to the indictment, SIEVE propositioned the minor female to engage in sexually explicit conduct with him and asked the minor female if she had any friends that would join them to engage in sexually explicit conduct.

The indictment further alleges that on that same date, after communicating online with a male and female, both undercover police officers posing as minors and who were allegedly friends of the

14-year old female, SIEVE agreed to meet them to engage in sexually explicit conduct in a group setting involving all three minors.

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative announced by the United States Department of Justice in February 2006. The initiative is designed to protect our children from child predators. Under this initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies join together to investigate and prosecute crimes against children facilitated through the Internet or other electronic media and communications devices and to obtain the strictest penalties available under state or federal law.

If convicted, SIEVE faces a sentence of not less than 5 years or more than 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Northwest Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

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